

State Technical Advisory Committee Agenda
Tuesday, July 28, 2015
 Teleconference/Webinar
9:30-1:15

Time	Duration	Topic	Presenter
9:30-9:35	5 min	Introductions	All
9:35-9:45	10 min	Welcome and Opening Comments	Roylene Rides at the Door, State Conservationist
9:45-10:00	15 min	Easement Subcommittee and Current Easement Sign Ups and Enrollments	Dave Kreft, State Easement Coordinator
10:00-10:30	30 min	Potential Changes to CRP Conservation Priority Area (see item 1a. below)	Rod Hamilton, Farm Services Agency
10:30-11:00	30 min	CRP Grassland Program Targeting and Ranking (see item 1b. below)	
11:00-11:30	30 min	Existing RCPP Agreements and Status of 2016 Competition (see item 2 below)	Sherre Copeland
11:30-12:30	60 min	Local Working Groups – FY 2016	Doug Allen
12:30-12:45	15 min	State Resource Assessment (Budget)	Peter Bautista
12:45-1:00	15 min	EPA Clarification of “Waters of the US” (see item 3 below)	Bonda Habets
1:00-1:15	15 min	Revised Program Timelines (see item 4 below)	Jeff Harlow
1:15	Adjourn		

Additional Information:

1. Conservation Reserve Program – Rod Hamilton

- a. Potential Changes to the CRP Conservation Priority Area (CPA)
 - i. Background: Producers in the CRP CPA are eligible to submit CRP offers (i.e., their land doesn't need to meet another eligibility criteria to submit an offer). They also receive ranking points for being in the CPA. We will need to reduce the CPA from 33% of the state cropland to 25%.
 - ii. Request for feedback from STAC:
 - 1. Should the CPA basis (air quality and PM<10 soils) stay the same?,
 - 2. If it does stay the same, where should we cut back to get down to 25%?
- b. New CRP Grassland program
 - i. Consideration for STAC:
 - 1. What special criteria should we give ranking points for?, and
 - 2. Should we target any specific areas of the state?

2. Regional Conservation Partnership Program – Sherre Copeland

- a. 2014-2015 Agreements and Sign Ups
 - i. Precision Conservation for Salmon and Water Quality in Puget Sound
 - ii. Upper Columbia Irrigation Enhancement Project
 - iii. Yakama Nation On-Reservation Lower Yakima Basin Restoration Project
 - iv. CTCR Water Quality and Habitat Restoration Project
 - v. Palouse River Watershed (WRIA 34) Implementation Partnership
 - vi. Unlocking Carbon Markets for NIPF Landowners in the Pacific Northwest
- b. 2016 Competition
 - i. Timelines:
 - 1. July 8, 2015 - Preproposal applications due
 - 2. September 4, 2015 - Announcement of select preproposals
 - 3. November 10, 2015 - Full proposal applications due
 - 4. January 2016 - Announcement of selected full proposal
 - 5. TBD – 2016 RCPP agreements signed
 - ii. NRCS WA pre-proposals received (14):
 - 1. 5 in CCA pool
 - 2. 4 in national pool
 - 3. 5 in state pool

3. EPA clarification of “Waters of the US” – Bonda Habets

- a. Background: EPA changed the definition of Waters of the US and was questioned by the Courts for potentially exceeding the scope of definition. In a second revision they have clarified the definition. Conservation Partners/Organizations were active in commenting on the first revision's negative affect on agriculture. This last revision relatively doesn't change much from the original scope agriculture has been operating with for years.

- b. Waters of the US final rule will with clarified definitions will be coming out soon. EPA has a fact sheet explaining this ruling, which documents what is and is not affected.

4. **Program Timelines** – Jeff Harlow

FY 16 EQIP:

Local Working Group pools, Beginning Farmer and Socially Disadvantaged General State Pool, Tribal, EQIP Caps, and National Program Initiatives (Organic, High Tunnels, Energy, and Energy Caps):

October 16, 2015 - 1st Application batch date (application cutoff)